

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 3–15, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27–30, 33–35, 45–52, 80, and 81 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 16–20, 23, 26, 31, 32, 36–44, and 53–79 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 35, 45–52, 80, and 81.

Dependent claims 3, 4, 10, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 33, and 34 have been amended to depend directly or indirectly on allowed claim 35, which originally depended indirectly on cancelled claim 1. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in the originally filed claims. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that these dependent claims and claims dependent therefrom are patentable for at least the reasons that allowed claim 35 is patentable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1–34, 36–44, and 76–79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is moot in view of (i) the amendment of dependent claims 3, 4, 10, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 33, and 34 to depend on allowed claim 35, and the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 16–20, 23, 26, 31, 32, 36–44, and 76–79.

Applicants submit that these dependent claims and claims dependent therefrom are patentable for at least the reasons allowed claim 35 is patentable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4–9, 23–25, 37, 38, and 76–79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,960,728 to Schaake et al. (“Schaake”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0060518 by Nakamura et al. (“Nakamura”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,415,128 to Kao et al. (“Kao”). Claims 1–3, 21, 22, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,841,457 to Bedell et al. (“Bedell”) in view of Kao. Claims 1 and 10–15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,914,488 to Yamane et al. (“Yamane”) in view of Kao. Claims 23, 32, 33 and 36–40, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamane in view of Kao and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,844,260 to

Ohuri (“Ohori”). Claims 16–20 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,515,335 to Christiansen et al. (“Christiansen”) in view of Kao. Claims 1, 23, and 26–30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/006744 by Malik et al. (“Malik”) in view of Kao. Claims 1, 23, 31, 32, 34, and 42–44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0146892 by Notsu et al. (“Notsu”) in view of Nakamura.

These rejections are moot in view of (i) the amendment of dependent claims 3, 4, 10, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 33, and 34 to depend on allowed claim 35, and (ii) the cancellation, without prejudice, of claims 1, 2, 16–20, 23, 26, 31, 32, 36–44, and 76–79.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

In the Advisory Action mailed August 31, 2007, the Examiner indicated that the period for reply expires 5 months from the mailing date of the final rejection, i.e., the period for reply expires August 21, 2007. Accordingly, a petition for a one-month extension of time is attached, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the one-month extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.


Applicants believe that no additional fees are necessitated by the present Response. However, in the event that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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